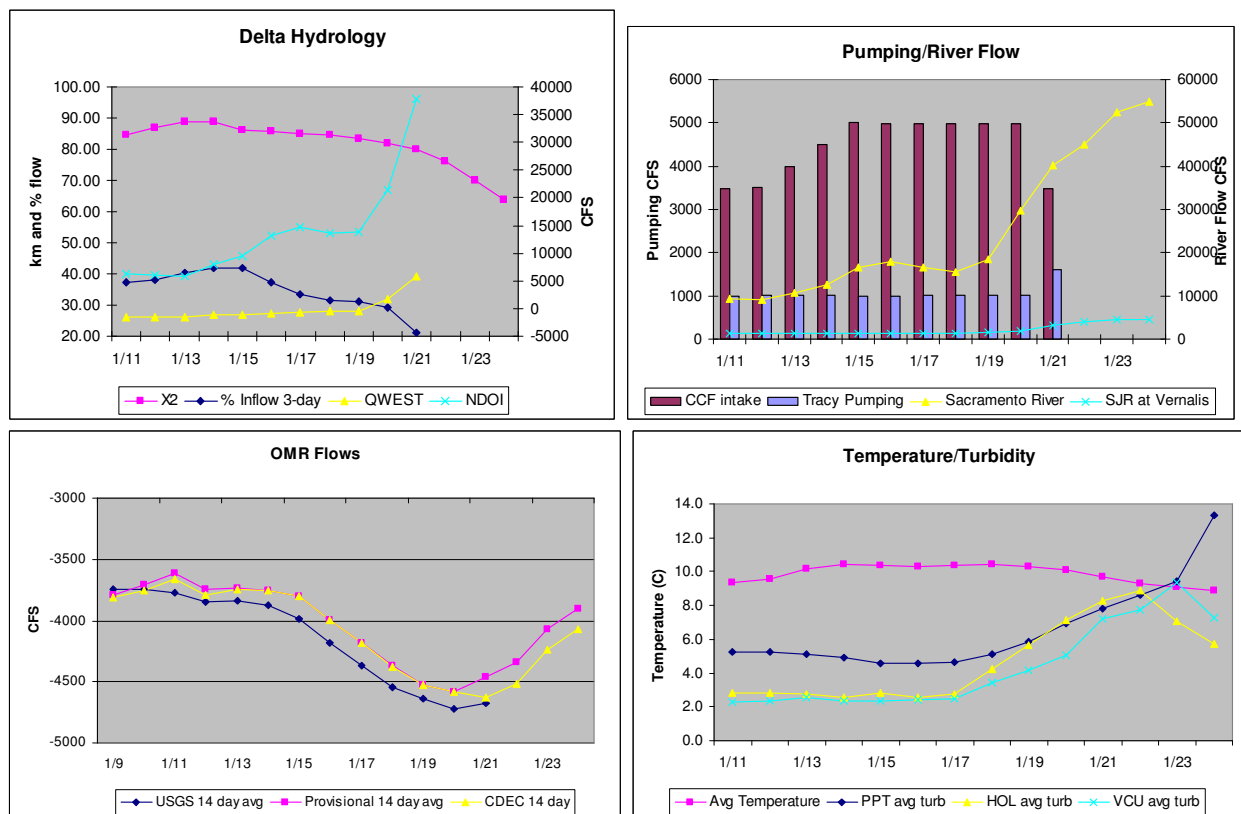


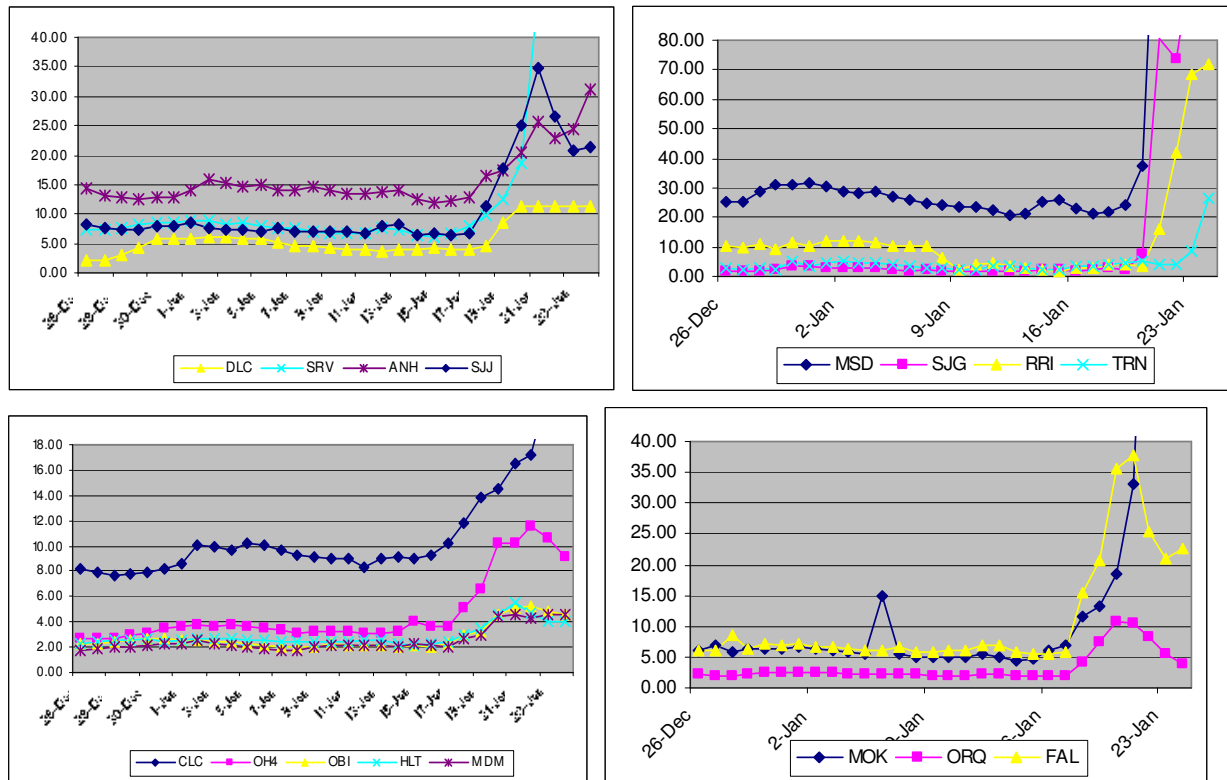
**Recommendation for the week of January 25, 2010:**

**No recommendation at this time because the triggers for action 1 have not been met. The group is monitoring the turbidity and salvage triggers under Action 1 in the biological opinion.**

1) Current environmental data.

Temperatures for the 3 station average is 8.9 C. Turbidity (as per the BO, part B of Action 1) is 13.31 NTU for Prisoner's Point, 7.24 NTU for Holland Tract, and 8.12 for Victoria Canal. The provisional estimate by the projects is -3902 cfs for 14 day average, -2878 cfs for 5 day average. USGS OMR as of January 21 is -4677 cfs 14 day average and -5026 cfs for 5 day average. No salvage has been reported for either delta or longfin smelt since the single delta smelt on December 2, 2009 (expanded to 4 fish). Graphs are depicted below.





The final four graphs depict daily turbidity levels at various non-criteria stations in the Delta.

## 2) Delta fish monitoring:

The Spring Kodiak Trawl #1 was in the field January 11 through 14. All samples have been processed. The final results are posted online. A total of 88 delta smelt were collected; 48 males (pre-spawn), 39 females (pre-spawn), 1 undetermined sex. 61 of these were collected from stations 606 and 609 (Montezuma Slough). The remaining delta smelt were collected from stations in the Sacramento River Deep Water Shipping Channel, Sacramento River mainstem, and the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. Spring Kodiak Trawl #2 will be in the field February 8 through 11. Smelt Larval Survey #1 was in the field January 4 and 5. No delta smelt were detected. Results from larval surveys and the SKT are available online at: <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/projects/?ProjectID=SKT>.

## 3) Discussion for Recommendation

We are currently monitoring for the triggers (Part B) that would initiate Action 1. The triggers are: a) an average daily turbidity of 12 NTU at each of the monitoring stations (Prisoner's Pt, Holland Cut and Victoria Canal) over three days OR b) salvage of 2 fish (expanded to 8). No salvage has been recorded, and the turbidity average for Prisoner's Point has exceeded 12 NTU, but has not for Holland Cut or Victoria Canal. The triggers have not yet been met and no Actions are recommended.

The group felt that the high flows on both the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers are helping to maintain both smelt species' populations in the Sacramento River, confluence, and downstream,

and out of the direct influence of the pumps. The group also noted that the facilities currently are restricted in pumping by the NMFS OCAP BO, which calls for OMR levels to remain no more negative than -5000cfs. The group believes this restriction would also provide benefit for the smelt species given current conditions. Additionally, the group noted that salvage, turbidity and field surveys should be monitored closely in the coming week.

## WEEKLY ADVICE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME FOR LONGFIN SMELT

### **Advice for week of January 25:**

The Smelt Working Group believes that OMR no more negative than -5000 cfs (the limit currently in place for salmon) is protective of longfin smelt at this time. Current Sacramento River flows may reach the threshold to relax OMR restrictions based on larva criteria when data are up to date.

### **Basis for advice:**

The 2009 State Water Project 2081 for longfin smelt states that advice to the DFG Director shall be based on:

1. Adult Salvage – total adult ( $\geq 80$ mm) longfin smelt expanded salvage (SWP+CVP) for December through February  $> 5$  times the Fall Midwater Trawl longfin smelt annual abundance index.
2. Adult abundance, distribution or other information indicates that OMR flow advice is warranted.
3. Larva distribution in the Smelt Larva Survey or the 20mm Survey finds longfin smelt larvae present at 8 of 12 Central and South Delta sampling stations in 1 survey (809, 812, 815, 901, 902, 906, 910, 912, 914, 915, 918, 919).
4. Larva catch per tow exceeds 15 longfin smelt larvae or juveniles in 4 or more of the 12 survey stations listed.

### Current Information

No adult longfin smelt were salvaged in the past week and none have been salvaged since the December 1, 2009 criterion period for salvage began. The threshold for the first criterion is a combined expanded salvage exceeding 325 adults occurring during the period December 1 through February 28.

There is no new information on adult distribution. Only a few longfin smelt adults have been collected in the San Joaquin River and farther south in December and January. In December, FMWT caught 2 at Station 810 (north/upstream of False River) and Bay Study got 1 at 837 (Antioch Bridge). In January, Bay Study collected 1 at 864 (near Old River mouth).

Both longfin smelt larva criteria were surpassed during the second Smelt Larva Survey January 19 and 21. Samples from 14 of 35 stations were processed in time for SWG discussion, including those from all criteria stations. Longfin smelt larvae were detected at 10 of 12 criteria locations and larva catch exceeded 15 at 4 criteria locations.

This triggers OMR flow advice unless outflow thresholds are reached (see below). If either larva/juvenile condition triggers advice, advice can restrict OMR flow levels to between -1,250 and -5000 cfs on a 14-day running average and the 5-day running average is within 25 percent of the required OMR flow.

Outflows have been approaching thresholds to re-set criteria triggers, but have not reached them. OMR restrictions would not be implemented or would be re-set if net daily Sacramento River flow at Rio Vista surpassed 55,000 cfs or if net daily San Joaquin River flow at Vernalis surpassed 8,000 cfs. The Sacramento River at Rio Vista net flow approached 45,000 cfs as of January 23, and the San Joaquin River at Vernalis was measured at 4,700 cfs. Also Qwest became positive on January 21 and was greater than positive 5,000 cfs based on most recent information, January 21. A strong positive Qwest will transport longfin smelt larvae west. Current flows likely transported longfin smelt larvae out of the main stem Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and into Suisun Bay.